and Social Study" under the title "Farmers' Suicides: Looking Beyond the Debt Trap";

(b) if so, whether this report reveals the detailed information about the causes forcing farmers to commit suicide; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assessment on yield of Bt. Cotton

843. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any assessment on the yield of Bt. Cotton in India, as there has been a lot of controversy over the reports of the independent surveys on the performance of the Bt. Cotton; and

(b) if so, the details of assessment made by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) On the directions of Government of India, the Monitoring Committees have been set up in all cotton growing States to evaluate the performance of Bt. Cotton. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has also done systematic studies to evaluate Bt. Cotton materials for various features important from the angle of requirement of cotton farmers of India.

(b) From the reports received from the State Governments it was observed that performance of Bt.Cotton was satisfactory during Kharif, 2003 and farmers have derived economic benefits. There was lesser attack of Bollworm in Bt. Cotton as compared to non Bt. Cotton.

The area of Bt. Cotton has increased from 0.70 lakh acres in Kharif, 2002 to 2.3 lakh acres in Kharif, 2003 and further increased to 12.00 lakh acres in the Kharif, 2004.

Spraying of coca cola on crops as pesticides

†844. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in certain districts in Andhra Pradesh are spraying coca cola cold drink as a pesticide for the protection of their crops;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the crops are being protected by the above mentioned spraying method?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that a few farmers in Asifabad Division of Adilabad District in the State have tried to control pests on cotton crop during Kharif, 2004 by spraying coca cola. However, no scientific study has been conducted to confirm the efficacy of coca cola in pest control.

Sreamlining NAIS

845. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of provisions of the Crop Insurance Scheme in India and various situations and conditions under which farmers could become beneficiaries of this scheme;

(b) whether farmers in various States are opposing this scheme in view of its failure to protect their interests;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken, so far, and measures proposed to be implemented to streamline the scheme;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.